



# Children's FRIEND

Making a difference...  
one child at a time.



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childrensfriendri.org



April 28, 2021

Chairman Marvin Abney  
House Finance Committee  
RI State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Testimony in Support of Department of Health FY 2022 Budget

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the Committee,

Children's Friend testifies in support of the Governor's proposed FY 2022 Budget for the Department of Health.

Specifically, we are pleased to see the increased investments in Family Visiting, including First Connections and the Evidence Based Family Visiting programs.

Research at a national level has shown that state investments in high quality early childhood programs are some of the best financial investments that a state can make. Economist and Nobel Laureate James Heckman's research has documented annual rates of return as high as 13% for investments in high quality early childhood programs.

The investment of State funds in evidenced based home visiting programs allows Rhode Island to access Medicaid matching funds, so in reality the return to RI of the investment of State funds in Family Visiting will be much higher than the 13% referenced previously.

The evidenced based family visiting programs are the longer term and comprehensive supports that families at risk often need, to ensure safety, stability, and long-term success of the family and the children.

Thank you for your time and review of this testimony. Thank you also for your continued efforts to support our families and invest in the long term future of our State. If you have any questions or need any further information please contact me at [dcaprio@cfsri.org](mailto:dcaprio@cfsri.org).

Sincerely,

David Caprio

President and CEO